

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A camera ~~that captures an image with~~  
comprising:

an imaging part adapted to capture an image; ~~and displays the image on~~  
a displaying device adapted to display the image,

wherein the camera ~~determines~~ is adapted to determine a brightness level of  
video signals obtained by the imaging part ~~and, adapted to automatically corrects~~  
correct the video signals according to the determined brightness level, ~~and outputs~~  
adapted to output the corrected video signals to the displaying device, and

wherein the camera is adapted to automatically corrects ~~correct~~ the video signals  
according to the determined brightness level without lowering an SN ratio.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A camera comprising:

an imaging part ~~that includes~~ including an imaging device;

a signal processing part ~~that processes~~ adapted to process video signals  
outputted from the imaging part;

a brightness determining part ~~that receives~~ adapted to receive the video signals  
outputted from the signal processing part ~~and determines~~ adapted to determine a  
brightness level of the received video signals;

a correction amount determining part ~~that determines~~ adapted to determine a  
correction amount for the video signals according to the brightness level of the video  
signals determined by the brightness determining part;

a correcting part that adapted to automatically corrects correct the video signals according to the correction amount determined by the correction amount determining part, wherein the correcting part is adapted to correct the video signals ~~are corrected~~ according to the determined brightness level from the brightness determining part without lowering an SN ratio; and

an outputting part ~~that outputs~~ adapted to output the video signals corrected by the ~~correction~~ correcting part to a displaying device.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The camera according to claim 2, wherein the signal processing part comprises

an A/D converter that converts the video signals outputted from the imaging part into digital signals, and

a D/A converter that converts the video signals corrected by the correcting part into analog signals; and

the correcting part corrects the video signals before the video signals are converted into the analog signals by the D/A converter.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A camera comprising:

an imaging part that includes an imaging device;

a variable gain amplifier that amplifies video signals outputted from the imaging part;

a signal processing part that processes the video signals amplified by the variable gain amplifier;

a brightness determining part that receives the video signals outputted from the signal processing part and determines a brightness level of the received video signals;

a gain controlling part that controls a gain of the variable gain amplifier according to the brightness level of the video signals, wherein the gain of the variable gain amplifier is controlled to an optimum gain value falling within an effective gain range and which does not permit a lowering of an SN ratio;

a correction amount determining part that determines a correction amount for the video signals according to the brightness level of the video signals determined by the brightness determining part;

a correcting part that corrects the video signals according to the correction amount determined by the correction amount determining part; and

an outputting part that outputs the video signals corrected by the correction part to a displaying device.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 2, wherein the correcting part does not include a variable gain amplifier.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A camera comprising:

a taking lens;

a diaphragm operatively connected to the taking lens;

an imaging device operatively connected to the taking lens and the diaphragm;

an ~~imaging~~ image signal processing circuit having

- an A/D converter for converting analog image signals from the imaging device into digital image signals,
- a gamma correcting circuit,
- a YC signal generating circuit, ~~wherein~~ adapted to perform gamma processing and chroma signal processing ~~are performed~~ on the digital image signals, and
- a D/A converter ~~for converting~~ adapted to convert the digital image signals into analog image signals;
- a display device controlling circuit; ~~a displaying device, wherein said display device controlling circuit outputs~~ adapted to output the analog image signals to the ~~a~~ displaying device according to the analog image signals output from the image signal processing circuit; and
- a microcomputer operatively connected to an EEPROM,

wherein said microcomputer ~~controls~~ is adapted to control the diaphragm according to the ~~video~~ digital image signals from the image signal processing circuit, ~~sends~~ adapted to send shutter speed control signals to the imaging device for controlling camera shutter speed, and adapted to automatically determines determine if a determined brightness level of the digital image signals is lower than a predetermined value, and

wherein said microcomputer ~~obtains~~ is adapted to obtain a correction value from the EEPROM according to the determined brightness level of the digital image signals and ~~outputs~~ to output a command control signal to the image signal processing circuit for automatic correction processing of the digital image signals without lowering an SN ratio and before the digital image signals are converted into the analog image signals by the D/A converter.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 6, further comprising a switch for choosing a command correction processing mode or a non-correction processing mode.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The camera according to claim 6, further comprising a variable gain amplifier operatively connected between the imaging device and the A/D converter of the image signal processing circuit,

wherein a gain of the variable gain amplifier is controlled by the microcomputer to provide an optimum gain value falling within an effective gain range provided by a data table within the EEPROM and which does not permit a lowering of the SN ratio.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The camera according to claim 8, said variable gain amplifier amplifying the analog image signals from the imaging device before said A/D converter receives said analog image signals.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A camera that captures an image with an imaging part and displays the image on a displaying device,

wherein the camera determines a brightness level of video signals obtained by the imaging part and automatically corrects the video signals according to the determined brightness level and outputs the corrected video signals to the displaying device, and

wherein the camera automatically corrects the video signals according to the determined brightness level by offsetting the brightness levels of the video signals by a correction value through correction processing; and further comprising:

a variable gain amplifier that amplifies signals outputted from an imaging part; and

a gain controlling part that controls a gain of the variable gain amplifier according to the brightness level of the video signals,

wherein the gain of the variable gain amplifier is controlled to an optimum gain value falling within an effective gain range and which does not permit a lowering of an SN ratio.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for adjusting a brightness level of an image captured on a camera and displayed on a display device, said method comprising:

determining a brightness level of video signals obtained by an imaging part and automatically correcting the video signals according to a determined brightness level; and

outputting the corrected video signals to the display device, wherein the camera automatically corrects the video signals according to the determined brightness level by offsetting the brightness levels of the corrected video signals by a correction value through correction processing, wherein a microcomputer within the camera provides an optimum gain value falling within an effective gain range provided by a data table within an EEPROM of the computer and which does not permit a lowering of an SN ratio.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for adjusting a brightness level of an image captured on a camera and displayed on a display device, said method comprising:

determining a brightness level of video signals obtained by an imaging part and automatically correcting the video signals according to a determined brightness level; and

outputting the corrected video signals to the display device, wherein the camera automatically corrects the video signals according to the determined brightness level without lowering an SN ratio, wherein a gain controlling part of the camera controls a gain of a variable gain amplifier within the camera according to the determined brightness level of the video signals, and the gain of the variable gain amplifier is controlled to an optimum gain value falling within an effective gain range.